

Lesson Plan Title: Celebrating Diversity Through Colors

Objective:

- To introduce preschool-aged children to the concept of diversity and celebrate differences in skin color.
- To promote positive self-esteem and appreciation for the beauty of diversity.
- To encourage empathy, respect, and inclusivity among children.

Materials Needed:

- Multicultural crayons or markers.
- Large paper or poster board.
- Mirror for each child.
- Picture books or images featuring diverse individuals.
- Discussion prompts and questions related to skin color diversity.
- Assessment materials such as observation checklist or anecdotal notes.

Procedure:

1. Introduction (10 minutes):

- Gather the children in a circle and begin by discussing the concept of diversity. Explain that diversity means differences among people, such as the way they look or the languages they speak.
- Show pictures or read stories featuring diverse individuals and point out the different skin colors represented.
- Ask the children questions such as:
 - "What do you notice about the people in the pictures?"
 - "Can you see people with different skin colors? What colors do you see?"
 - "Do you know that each person's skin color is unique and beautiful?"

2. Exploration Activity (15 minutes):

- Distribute multicultural crayons or markers to each child.
- Invite the children to look at themselves in the mirror and observe the color of their own skin.
- Encourage them to select a crayon or marker that matches their skin color as closely as possible.
- Provide large paper or poster board for the children to draw self-portraits using their chosen crayon or marker.
- As they draw, facilitate discussions about the beauty of their own skin color and the diversity of skin colors among their peers.

3. Group Discussion (10 minutes):

- Gather the children together and lead a discussion about the drawings they created and the colors they used.
- Use discussion prompts such as:

- "What color did you use for your skin? Why did you choose that color?"
- "Did you notice that we all have different skin colors? How does that make you feel?"
- "Why is it important to appreciate and celebrate our differences?"

4. Assessment (10 minutes):

- Observe children's participation and engagement during the exploration activity and group discussion.
- Use an observation checklist or anecdotal notes to assess their understanding of diversity and their ability to appreciate differences in skin color.
- Pay attention to children's interactions with their peers and their expressions of empathy and inclusivity.

Extension Activities:

- Create a classroom display showcasing the children's self-portraits and celebrate the beauty of diversity.
- Read books or sing songs about diversity and inclusion and encourage children to share their thoughts and feelings.
- Invite family members to participate in a multicultural celebration where children can share their drawings and talk about what they learned about diversity.

Interdisciplinary Supplemental Activities

Language and Literacy Development:

- Standard: Recognize and name colors.
- Connection: Use books, pictures, and activities that feature diverse characters and representations of different skin tones to teach colors. Encourage discussions about how people come in different shades and celebrate the beauty of diversity.

Social Studies:

- Standard: Explore and appreciate cultural diversity.
- Connection: Introduce children to various cultures and traditions from around the world through stories, songs, and artwork. Discuss how different cultures have unique customs and celebrations, including different meanings and significance attached to colors.

Art and Creative Expression:

- Standard: Use colors creatively to express ideas and emotions.
- Connection: Provide opportunities for children to explore mixing and blending colors to create artwork that celebrates diversity. Encourage them to express their thoughts and feelings about diversity through their artwork.

Social and Emotional Development:

- Standard: Develop empathy and respect for others.
- Connection: Facilitate discussions about how people may look different on the outside but are similar on the inside, emphasizing the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect regardless of their appearance.

Mathematics:

- Standard: Sort and classify objects based on attributes such as color.
- Connection: Engage children in sorting and classifying objects by color, including items representing diverse skin tones. Use this activity as an opportunity to reinforce the message that diversity is beautiful and should be celebrated.

Music and Movement:

- Standard: Participate in music and movement activities that promote cultural awareness.
- Connection: Incorporate songs and dances from different cultures that celebrate diversity. Use scarves, ribbons, or other colorful props to represent the diversity of people around the world.

Family and Community Engagement:

- Standard: Engage families in activities that promote diversity and inclusion.

- Connection: Encourage families to share stories, traditions, and experiences related to diversity and cultural identity. Invite family members to participate in classroom activities or share resources that celebrate diversity.





Preschool Observation Checklist: Celebrating Diversity Through Colors

Objective:

To observe and document children's engagement and understanding during the racial equity lesson on celebrating diversity through colors.

Child's Name: _____ Date: _____

Domain: Racial Equity Observer: _____

Engagement and Participation:

1. Actively participates in the lesson activities.
2. Demonstrates interest and curiosity in exploring different skin colors.
3. Engages in discussions about the beauty and uniqueness of diverse skin colors.
4. Shows enthusiasm while using multicultural crayons to represent various skin tones.

Understanding of Diversity:

1. Demonstrates an understanding that people come in different skin colors.
2. Uses descriptive language to talk about different skin tones.
3. Recognizes and appreciates diversity in skin color among peers.
4. Shows empathy and respect towards peers with different skin colors.

Creativity and Expression:

1. Expresses creativity while exploring colors through art activities.
2. Uses multicultural crayons to represent diversity in artwork.
3. Expresses thoughts and feelings about diversity through artwork.
4. Engages in imaginative play that reflects diversity and inclusion.

Social Interaction:

1. Collaborates with peers in the exploration of colors and diversity.
2. Shares multicultural crayons and materials with classmates.
3. Engages in conversations about diversity with peers and teachers.
4. Shows kindness and inclusivity towards peers of all skin colors.

Critical Thinking and Reflection:

1. Asks questions about diversity and skin color.
2. Reflects on the significance of celebrating diversity through colors.
3. Demonstrates an understanding of why diversity is important.
4. Connects the lesson content to personal experiences or observations.

Picture Books

1. "Hair Love" by Matthew A. Cherry (Illustrated by Vashti Harrison)
Summary: This heartwarming story follows a young African American girl named Zuri who learns to love and appreciate her natural hair with the help of her father. The book celebrates the beauty and versatility of natural hair and the bond between father and daughter.
2. "I Love My Hair!" by Natasha Anastasia Tarpley (Illustrated by E.B. Lewis)
Summary: This book tells the story of a young girl named Keyana who learns to love her beautiful, natural hair. Through her mother's loving care, Keyana discovers the joy and pride in her unique hair.
3. "The Day You Begin" by Jacqueline Woodson (Illustrated by Rafael López)
Summary: This book tells the story of children who feel like they don't fit in because of their race, culture, or personal experiences. It highlights the importance of embracing diversity and sharing one's own story.
4. "Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut" by Derrick Barnes (Illustrated by Gordon C. James)
Summary: This book celebrates the confidence and pride that come with a fresh haircut. It highlights the importance of self-esteem and the cultural significance of barbershops in the African American community.
5. "Saturday" by Oge Mora
Summary: This story follows a mother and daughter who cherish their Saturdays together. Despite several mishaps, they learn to appreciate the joy of being together and making the best of any situation.
6. "Thank You, Omu!" by Oge Mora
Summary: Omu makes a delicious stew that she plans to enjoy for dinner. However, the smell of the stew attracts her neighbors, and she generously shares her meal with them. In the end, her neighbors show their gratitude in a heartwarming way.
7. "Sulwe" by Lupita Nyong'o (Illustrated by Vashti Harrison)
Summary: Sulwe has skin the color of midnight. She is darker than everyone in her family and wishes she could be beautiful and bright like her mother and sister. Through a magical journey in the night sky, Sulwe learns to embrace her unique beauty.
8. "My Hair is a Garden" by Cozbi A. Cabrera
Summary: Mackenzie is upset about her hair until her neighbor teaches her how to care for it and shows her that her hair is like a beautiful garden. The book includes hair care tips and celebrates the beauty of natural hair.

9. "A Big Mooncake for Little Star" by Grace Lin

Summary: Little Star's mama bakes a big mooncake, but despite being told to wait, Little Star can't resist taking tiny nibbles every night. This book beautifully illustrates the phases of the moon through a story rooted in cultural tradition.